

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5607

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: AMERICAN SPEAKER FOR CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
BICENTENNIAL OBSERVATIONS

1. THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WILL SPONSOR A SPECIAL PANEL JJUNE 21-23 FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ON "SIGNIFICANCE OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION AFTER 200 YEARS." PROGRAM AS NOW TENTATIVELY PLANNED WILL INCLUDE PRESENTATIONS BY SUCH DISTINGUISHED BRAZILIAN INTELLECTUALS AS GILBERTO FREYRE, VIANA MOOG, AND ALFONSO ARINOS. PROGRAM HAS AIM OF MARKING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF US REVOLUTION AND THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF THE IDEALS IS PROCLAIMED.

2. CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, JOAQUIM COUTINHO, HAS APPEALED TO THE EMBASSY FOR ITS HELP IN OBTAINING THE PARTICIPATION OF A FIRST-RANKING AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL TO GIVE ONE OF THE ADDRESSES IN THE SERIES. CHAIRMAN PERSONALLY EXPRESSED HOPE FOR PARTICIPATION BY AN AMERICAN OF STATURE JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH OR ARTHUR SCHLESINGER. THOUGH HE AWARE OF EXTREME DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING SUCH PARTICIPANTS ON BRIEF NOTICE AND WOULD BE VERY OPEN TO ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS BY USG. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WILL PROVIDE ALL EXPENSES AND TRAVEL WITHIN BRAZIL FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK. BECAUSE OF INTERNAL REGULATIONS, HOWEVER, CHAIRMAN SAYS CHAMBER UNABLE TO OFFER TO PAY INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL. HE STATES THAT SOLE COMMITMENT OF SPEAKER WOULD BE ONE LECTURE DURING CHAMBER'S THREE-DAY PROGRAM, AFTER WHICH SPEAKER WOULD BE FREE TO VISIT OTHER

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CITIES IN BRAZIL FOR RECREATION OR PROFESSIONAL REASONS

WITH ALL EXPENSES PAID BY CHAMBER.

3. EMBASSY AWARE THAT THIS MAY APPEAR TO BE A
DUPLICATION OF US INVOLVEMENT IN BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM
PLANNED BY FEDERAL SENATE FOR JUNE 24-25 WITH PARTICIPATION
OF RICHARD SCAMMON AND JUDGE JOHN MINOR WISDOW. CHAMBER HAS
STRONGLY TURNED DOWN EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS THAT FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE LINK-UP WITH PROGRAM NOW PLANNED BY SENATE.
ORGANIZERS OF CHAMBER'S PROGRAM INSIST SUCH COMBINEPSAPPROACH
NOT COMPATIBLE WITH JEALOUSLY GUARDED AUTONOMY OF TWO
CHAMBERS AND THAT IN ANY CASE SENATE WOULD ONLY ACCEPT
CHAMBER PARTICIPATION IN WHAT WOULD BE CLEARLY SUBORDINATE
ROLE.

4. SINCE SENATE HAS ALREADY AGREED TO PAY FOR
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR SCAMMON AND WISDOM, POST WILL
CONTINUE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF OBTAINING SIMILAR
COMMITMENT FROM CHAMBER. IN THE EVENT THAT CHAMBER
REGULATIONS ABSOLUTELY FORBID PAYMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
TRAVEL FOR FOREIGN VISITORS, POST WILL REQUEST AMSPEC
GRANT FOR CHAMBER SPEAKER.

5. EMBASSY AGREES THAT COMBINED PROGRAM SATISFACTORY TO
CHAMBER USING SCAMMON AND WISDOM IS PROBABLY OUT OF
QUESTION, BUT ALSO BELIEVES THIS IS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
FOR APPEARANCE BY AN INFLUENTIAL AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL
BEFORE A PRESTIGIOUS BRAZILIAN BODY IS AN EVENT WHICH SURE
TO GET INTENSE MEDIA COVERAGE. EMBASSY THEREFORE STRONGLY
RECOMMENDS THAT AGENCY SEEK SUITABLY PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN
SPEAKER WHO, WITH THIS ADMITTEDLY BRIEF LEAD TIME, WOULD
BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN CHAMBER'S PROGRAM IN
BRASILIA DURING JUNE 21-23 TIMEFRAME. THE PARTICIPANT
COULD BE FROM FIELDS OF JOURNALISM, SOCIAL SCIENCES,
POLITICAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, OR PUBLIC LIFE. CHAMBER WOULD
BE PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO RECEIVE WELL-KNOWN CONGRESSMAN OR
SENATOR. WE NOTE HOWEVER THAT A CONGRESSMAN WOULD BE THE
PREFERABLE OPTION SINCE PROGRAM IS BEING CONDUCTED COUNTER-
PART BRANCH IN BRAZIL AND SINCE WE WERE UNABLE TO MEET
SENATE'S EARLIER REQUEST FOR A SENATOR FOR ITS PROGRAM. HOWEVER IF
A SENATOR SHOULD BE AVAILABLE, WE SHOULD PLAN TO OFFER
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HIM TO THE CHAMBER WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD
ALSO AT LEAST BE OFFERED TO THE SENATE FOR PARTICIPATION IN
ITS PROGRAM, WHICH NOW VIRTUALLY COMPLETE.

6. WHILE RECOGNIZING LATENESS OF THIS REQUEST. EMBASSY
APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY TO PERMIT DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF
PROGRAM AND CHOICE OF APPROPRIATE LECTURE TOPIC.
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